



FACT SHEET

16th Special Operations Wing

16th Special Operations Wing (AFSOC) Public Affairs
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18th Flight Test Squadron

The 18th Flight Test Squadron was established in October 1983 as Special Missions Operational Test and Evaluation Center (SMOTEC). The squadron is a direct reporting unit of the Air Force Special Operations Command. It is the Air Force's only specifically tasked test and evaluation agency in support of enhancing Air Force special operations forces worldwide.

The mission of the 18th FLTS is test and evaluation of special operations aircraft and equipment. The squadron conducts tests and evaluations in support of every type and model of AFSOC aircraft. It also conducts tests and evaluations for Department of Defense and other governmental agencies in a supporting role and as a lead agency.

The 18th Test Squadron, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., was moved to Hurlburt Field in April 1994 and



SMOTEC was deactivated. All people and equipment were redesignated 18th FLTS. It is specifically tasked to test and evaluate new or modified aircraft and is arranged similar to an operational flying squadron. The 18th FLTS is organized with a commander and seven flights.

The divisions are: fixed wing, rotary wing, Combat Talon II, U-model gunship, electronic combat, operational analysis and operations support. The squadron is composed of 95 people; 76 stationed at Hurlburt Field, and 19 at Detachment 1, Edwards AFB, Calif.

(Current as of September 1998)